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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/661,223	09/13/2000	Futoshi Kaibuki	450100-02710	7775

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EXAMINER

HUYNH, KIM T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2189
DATE MAILED: 07/16/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/661,223

Applicant(s)

KAIBUKI, FUTOSHI

Examiner

Kim T. Huynh

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2003.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-33 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-17 and 19-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by ITO et al. (U.S Pub. No. 2001/0043731 A1)

a. As per claims 1 and 19, Ito discloses an electronic device for processing data comprising:

- a data processing subunit for receiving and processing input data; [0086-0088] wherein 1394 interface is the data processing of data processing subunit (PC) which is functionally configured to have the a layer structure such as 1 physical layer which encoding/decoding input/output signals; 2) link layer which generating communications between devices; 3) transaction layer which performing management of data to be transmitted, (configuring, encoding/decoding, generating communications, transmitting data are implied data processing).
- a functional block (fig.18, 202), [0183] included within said a data processing subunit, operative as a termination device to terminate the data processed by said data processing subunit; [0104-0116] 1394 interface which configuring data to communicate with the printer. The printer

receiving signals from PC carried via 1394 interface for printing jobs (implies functional block which terminate data processed by PC) [0104-116], [0183])

- a memory for storing information pertaining to said functional block. [0093], [0182]

b. As per claims 2 and 20, Ito discloses further comprising connection means for logically connecting said data processing subunit and other electronics of said electronic device. [0086], [0087], [0104]

c. As per claims 3 and 21, Ito discloses wherein the information stored in said memory indicates that said functional block terminates data received by the data processing subunit. [0182], [0183], [0184]

d. As per claims 4 and 22, Ito discloses wherein the information stored in said memory is accessible by an external electronic apparatus connected to said electronic device. [0180]

e. As per claim 5, Ito discloses further comprising connection means for logically connecting said electronic device and said external electronic apparatus. [0180]

f. As per claim 6, Ito discloses wherein said subunit further comprises another functional block for performing said input data processing and supplying said processed data to said functional block operative as a termination device. [0182], [0019]

g. As per claim 7, Ito discloses wherein said memory further stores information pertaining to said subunit. [0093]

h. As per claim 8, Ito discloses wherein said memory is a descriptor. [0093]

- i. As per claim 9, Ito discloses wherein said memory has a hierarchical structure.
[0086]
- k. As per claim 10, Ito wherein said data is image data (fig.18, 21) and said functional block is an image display means that terminates said data by converting the processed data into an image signal and displaying an image corresponding thereto. [0183], [0179]
- l. As per claim 11, Ito discloses wherein said image display means is a display.
[0184]
- m. As per claim 12, Ito discloses wherein said image display means is a printer (fig.18, 202), [0183], [0184]
- n. As per claim 13, Ito discloses wherein said data is audio data and said functional block is an audio output means that terminates said processed data by converting it into sound corresponding thereto. [0180], [0160]
- p. As per claims 14 and 29, Ito discloses wherein said electronic device is configured to perform data communication with other devices via a serial data bus. [0147]
- q. As per claims 15, 24, 30 and 33, Ito discloses wherein said information pertaining to said functional block stored within said memory includes information concerning virtual plug information of said functional block. [0081], [0086]
- r. As per claims 16, 25 and 31, Ito discloses further comprising another functional block for processing said data and supplying said processed data to said functional block operative as a terminating device, and said memory further

storing information concerning virtual plug information of said another functional block, wherein all of said virtual plug information is accessible by an external apparatus coupled to said electronic device via said serial data bus. [0182], [0183], [0184], (fig.29)

s. As per claim 17, Ito discloses wherein said serial data bus performs data communication in accordance with the IEEE-1394-1995 standard. [0147]

t. As per claim 23, Ito discloses wherein said input data is received by said electronic device over a serial data bus. [0192]

u. As per claims 26 and 32, Ito discloses a system having a plurality of electronic devices coupled to one other via a data bus to enable transmission of data among said devices, comprising:

- a data transmitting device for transmitting data over said data bus; [0192]
- a data receiving device for receiving the data transmitted by said data transmitting device over said data bus; [0192]
- wherein said data receiving device comprises:
 - a data processing subunit for processing said received data; [0192], [0086], [0088]
 - a functional block, included within for processing subunit, operative as a termination device to terminate the data processed by said data processing subunit; [0180], [0192]

- a memory for storing information pertaining to said functional block. [0182]

v. As per claim 27, Ito discloses wherein said data receiving device further includes connection means for logically connecting said data processing subunit and other electronics of said data receiver. [0180], [0182], [0192]

w. As per claim 28, Ito discloses wherein the information stored in said memory indicates that said functional block terminates data received by the data processing subunit. [0192]

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito et al. (U.S Pub. No. 2001/0043731 A1) in view of Ludtke et al. (U.S Patent 6,141,702)

As per claim 18, Ito discloses all the limitations as above except Ito fails to disclose an electronic device is a digital television receiver. However, Ludtke discloses a network device includes a television device. (col.6, lines 39-59)

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skills in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate Ludtke's teaching into Ito's method to include a DTV receiver so as to have a greater flexibility for supporting any type of devices for the system.

R spon s to Argum nts

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 5/08/03 have been considered but are not persuasive.

a. In response to applicant's argument ITO does not disclose a functional block, included within a data processing subunit of an electronic device, operative as a termination device to terminate the data processed by the data processing subunit. ITO does disclose the 1394 interface is the data processing of data processing subunit (PC) which is functionally configured to have the a layer structure such as 1) physical layer which encoding/decoding input/output signals; 2) link layer which generating communications between devices; 3) transaction layer which performing management of data to be transmitted. ([0086-0088]. (configuring, encoding/decoding, generating communications, transmitting data are implied data processing). Furthermore ITO discloses the 1394 interface which configuring data to communicate with the printer. The printer receiving signals from PC carried via 1394 interface for printing jobs (implies functional block which terminate data processed by PC) [0104-116], [0183]

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. *Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kim Huynh whose telephone number is (703)305-5384 or via e-mail addressed to [kim.huynh3@uspto.gov]. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30AM- 6:30PM.*

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached on (703) 305-4815 or via e-mail addressed to [mark.rinehart@uspto.gov]. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)746-7249 for regular communications and (703)746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-5631.

Kim Huynh

July 11, 2003



MARK H. RINEHART
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100